

S-E-C-R-E-T

29 July 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Saigon Situation: Further security measures were taken in Saigon during June. The U.S. Mission ordered that no U.S. vehicles were to be parked on the streets after dark, travel in the city was restricted to official business, and areas of dissidence, including the PX-Commissary compound, were to be avoided. Police guards around the U.S. Embassy complex were reinforced. Bureau operations were not significantly affected though minor alterations in work schedules were required. With some 13,000 employees of RMK-BRJ (U.S. construction combine) on strike, the Mission Council, which sets wage policy for local employees of the U.S. Government and government-contract companies, decided on 29 June to grant a 7.5-percent wage increase for local employees of the U.S. Mission. The wage increase, considered inadequate in view of the inflationary situation, evoked considerable discontent among employees of the Mission and there were expectations of some walkouts and possibly sit-down strikes, though not among FBIS employees. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Mediterranean Bureau Developments: June was marked by a further tightening of controls by Greek Cypriot authorities, including the sealing off of the main Turkish enclave between Nicosia and Kyrenia for three days in retaliation for two bomb explosions in Nicosia. During this period the Nicosia-Kyrenia road was closed to all but necessary bureau travel in official vehicles, which included the school bus. FBIS personnel were able to use the road normally during a second tightening of controls later in the month, but two FBIS American families had their cars thoroughly searched by Greek police. Arrangements were made for the return of UAR coverage and four Arabic monitors from London in two stages during September. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Services on Vietnam: FBIS services relating to Vietnam included information for the White House, State Department, USIA, and Agency requesters on communist reactions to the bombing of oil depots near Hanoi and Haiphong. OCI was supplied with Moscow references to volunteers in connection with the Hanoi-Haiphong bombings, and with the last previous Soviet references to volunteers; past promises of volunteers from the East European countries, as background for the statement on volunteers in the Warsaw Pact declaration on Vietnam; recent Soviet elite references to support for the DRV and NFLSV programs; background on Soviet Defense Minister Malinovskiy's speech in Hungary accusing the Chinese of hindering Soviet efforts to aid Vietnam;

Group 1

Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 29 July 1966

precedents for "kills" of items by TASS in its domestic transmission; to evaluate the possible significance of an item on the Hanoi-Haiphong air strikes which TASS transmitted and then canceled; and announced dates of Le Duc Tho's Moscow stopover en route home from the Czech party congress. Military casualty branches were recently sent several tapes of recorded statements or "depositions" by U.S. pilots broadcast by Hanoi and Peking radios and supplied by Saigon and West Coast Bureaus. Dependence on FBIS reporting and sources was reflected by a recent Navy request for photographs from the North Vietnamese press of U.S. pilots being paraded through Hanoi 6 July. The Saigon Bureau supplied the photographs. FBIS' contribution to information about American POW's received high praise at a recent meeting in the Pentagon. Hanoi's intensified propaganda about the possible trial of captured U.S. pilots was the topic of several recent Saigon Embassy cables citing FBIS items.

(SECRET)

4. Research and Analysis Services: At the request of the U.S. delegation to the Geneva disarmament talks, Soviet statements during 1965 were examined for references to the multilateral force as the only obstacle to the conclusion of a nonproliferation agreement. The delegation was advised that the MLF had been cited as a hindrance, but not singled out as the sole obstacle. Examples culled from the War Themes file were wirefiled to the delegation. A typescript report was prepared for USIA tabulating the number of Moscow and Peking radio commentaries per week on U.S. race relations and racial troubles since January 1964 and indicating the proportion of the weekly total directed to African audiences. A compilation of Soviet statements on contingency procedures for and cooperation in rescuing cosmonauts in distress, with a covering summary, was prepared at the request of the O/DD/I.

Other research services included a report for DIA on the number of Chinese "serious warnings" to the United States, the year in which they began and the number per year, and how many pertained to air, sea, or sea and air violations. Agency components were provided with information on Chinese propaganda on Outer Mongolia; the first Soviet mention of the idea of a "front of opponents of a new world war," a proposal attacked by Chinese delegates at recent World Peace Council meetings in Berlin and Geneva; data on a series of talks carried in April/May by the Persian-language clandestine radio Peyk-e Iran; and Peking reaction to the New York TIMES series on the Agency. The Soviet leader who declared in an election speech that "no key international problems can be solved without the Soviet Union" was identified for the State Department as Ponomarev. Statistics were culled for USIA on Soviet domestic and foreign broadcast attention to the World Peace Council and International Labor Organization meetings in Geneva. (SECRET)

- 2 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 29 July 1966

5. Special Services: At State Department request, for use by Secretary Rusk at the SEATO conference, FBIS refiled to the U.S. Embassy in Canberra Prince Sihanouk's 18 June speech on Cambodia's relations with Thailand. Special requests for tapes during the month included: several Indonesian radio commentaries containing anti-CPR material (Okinawa Bureau), samples of Tashkent's broadcasts in Uighur (London), and a speech by Cuban minister Osmani Cienfuegos (Key West). Senator Robert Kennedy's statement, on his return from East Africa, that Peace Corpsmen there told him they would rather listen to Radio Peking than the Voice of America prompted a high-level VOA request for a sample of Peking's musical programming on its African beam. West Coast Bureau supplied the tape.

An Agency component levied a requirement for all Havana reportage, including video tapes of any television material, on the Caribbean Games in Puerto Rico. After the games, Havana television began a series of lengthy programs highlighting the harassment of the Cuban athletes by "counter-revolutionaries." Video tapes of this series were forwarded by Key West Bureau, which also serviced a request for tapes of any Havana television appearances or films of Fidel Castro since 1 May. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. Lateral Services: Upon request the London Bureau supplied the American Embassy, London, with the FBIS Bulletin and the Review of Soviet and East European Broadcasts for use by Secretary Rusk during his 9-10 June visit. The German Bureau on 10 June arranged for several 513th Intelligence Corps Group Officers to view and take still photographs of a television program, "The Secret of Oberursel," at the bureau's Camp King monitoring facility. The Okinawa Bureau supplied USIS with updated information on Ceylon's international and commercial broadcasts. MACV's Polwar staff was provided with three months of Cambodian radio material by the Saigon Bureau, which also began servicing the U.S. II Field Force Vietnam with broadcast reaction to that unit's operations. Recent services performed by the Tokyo Bureau upon request included translation of a lengthy Akahata appeal to all Japanese Communist Party cells, for the Tokyo Embassy's Political Section, and processing of a long Peking in Japanese item containing statements critical of the U.S. High Commissioner by Okinawans visiting the CPR, for a local Okinawa Bureau consumer. Upon urgent request, the Mediterranean Bureau filed to the American Embassy, Amman, at 00 precedence a full summary of King Husayn's 14 June speech. Text of the speech was supplied the next day. (CONFIDENTIAL)

7. Power Failure: As the result of power failure caused by a fire in the Key Building air conditioning system over the Fourth of July weekend, the Editorial Division was severely hampered in its production of the Daily Report on 5 July and most Headquarters employees were dismissed early as the temperature in the building rose to the mid-nineties. Despite the oppressive heat and several shutdowns of all building power to facilitate repairs, the Editorial Division was able to publish a full Far East book and truncated

- 3 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 29 July 1966

editions of the Middle East, Africa & West Europe and USSR/East Europe books. However, a power interruption during a critical production period in late afternoon prevented publication of the Latin America book. Provision of an additional emergency power supply to insure uninterrupted power for the Production Section's electric typewriters and Xerox machine has been arranged by the Engineering Staff. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

8. New AP Service: FBIS Headquarters began receiving the Associated Press "A" wire on 15 July in place of AP's long-used "C" wire. The new service, designed primarily for newspapers, reports news in more depth and provides more international coverage than did the previous service tailored mainly for radio stations. An added advantage of the new service is that it reports important international developments well in advance of the "C" wire, alerting FBIS Wire Service editors who in turn can alert the field when necessary. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

9. Supplements and Reports: CPR Defense Minister Lin Piao's article on People's War, first published by FBIS as a Daily Report supplement in September 1965 and reprinted repeatedly to meet consumer demands, is being printed in 4,000-5,000 copies as a U.S. Government publication and will be sold to the public at a nominal price. The resolutions of the 13th Czechoslovak Communist Party Congress, carried by the 8 June Rude Pravo, were published as a Daily Report supplement on 23 June. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

10. White Book Study: The Office of Programing, Planning, and Budgeting recently completed a study of the production and distribution of the unrestricted Daily Report, the "White Book," and the possibility of selling it to consumers. The final report recommended continuation of present printing and distribution arrangements because the cost of the White Book is in fact minimal and there would be many problems involved in selling it. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

11. Information on POW's: In addition to continuing requirements for own-voice recordings and information about downed U.S. pilots and other servicemen captured in Vietnam, there is continued high-level interest in significant material on the DRV's intentions regarding the trial of captured pilots. All such material should be addressed to the four Service casualty branches as previously specified in messages. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

12. Bureau Commendations: The Panama, Mediterranean, and Key West Bureaus were commended by Headquarters for their respective handling of the 28 June Argentine coup against the Illia government, the attempted coup against the Iraqi Government on 30 June, and Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's radio-TV speech on 30 June. Coverage of the rapidly developing events surrounding the Iraqi and Argentine situations was both thorough and prompt, and enabled the FBIS Wire to carry significant developments well in advance of other news media.

- 4 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 29 July 1966

Rumors about Castro's political standing and mental stability lent special importance to the Cuban leader's speech, and the Key West Bureau's general observations on his appearance and its rapid dispatch of the video tape to consumers were greatly appreciated. The East Coast Bureau was also commended for its coordination with and backstopping of the Panama Bureau and its exploitation of Latin American press transmissions during the Argentine coup. (CONFIDENTIAL)

13. ECB Editorial Innovation: To help ease the editorial staffing situation at Headquarters, the East Coast Bureau has assigned monitors with long experience to the editorial functions of selecting, editing, and filing copy with the guidance of bureau supervisory personnel. Results to date have been good and the quality of the file has been very good. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

14. CPR "Cultural Revolution": The Okinawa Bureau is maintaining a cardfile index of all individuals reported by Peking as being "anti-party elements" in the course of the CPR "cultural revolution." The index includes biographic information and the source of the first monitored accusation. (CONFIDENTIAL)

15. Briefings and Visits: Eight FBIS summer employees were recently briefed by Headquarters components and visited the East Coast Bureau to observe monitoring operations. Twelve NPIC analysts were briefed on FBIS operations during a visit to Headquarters. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

16. Training: The Chief, Editorial Division, attended an IBM Executive Seminar on Automatic Data Processing (ADP) at the IBM Education Center 29 June-1 July. The seminar, designed as an introduction to computer science and data processing, dealt with computer uses in industry and government, card punch and sorting machines, ADP programing, and use of ADP in management. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

17. African Communications: Following a recent agreement with the Department of State, the African Bureau began sharing a Lagos-London leased circuit with the American Embassy, Lagos, on 5 July. The new circuit, which increases transmission speed from 17 to 33 wpm and slightly increases capacity, operates between 0500-1200 and 1600-2100 GMT. The routing indicator for FBIS Kaduna is now RUDSLN. (CONFIDENTIAL)

- 5 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 29 July 1966

18. Far East Communications: Okinawa Bureau reported its fifth consecutive month without a preemption on the Tokyo allocated circuit following upgrading of its restoration priority from 3A to 2A. As a result of serious preemption and outage difficulties with the Saigon allocated channel, this circuit's restoration priority was also upgraded from 3A to 2A on 21 June. (CONFIDENTIAL)

19. Saigon Bureau Call Sign: The Saigon Bureau's common-user call sign is now RUMSEM/FBIS Saigon. On 27 July the bureau became a tributary of the DCA relay in Saigon rather than Okinawa, and common user traffic now goes through the Saigon relay. (CONFIDENTIAL)

20. Reception Reports: Cruising monitors are reminded that brief observations on the quality of reception, in addition to the usual data provided for MOS, are of considerable value to FOS. This applies particularly to new stations, transmitters, frequencies, and beams. Significant changes in previously reported reception also should be noted. (UNCLASSIFIED)

21. Broadcasting Developments: Hanoi radio introduced Indonesian-language broadcasts to Indonesia at the end of June. The Okinawa and Saigon Bureaus are sharing coverage. Albania has increased its English-language broadcasting with two new half-hour broadcasts announced as the "Afro-Asian Service." Preliminary indications are that the material is repetitive and will not require additional coverage. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

22. Key West TV Tests: Television transmission field intensity measuring equipment was forwarded to the Key West Bureau for a series of field tests to determine what effect Coral Television Corporation's new transmitter in the south Miami area would have on FBIS monitoring of Havana television transmissions. Preliminary test results indicate there will be no serious interference from the commercial transmitter. (CONFIDENTIAL)

ADMINISTRATION

24. Shipment of Foreign-Manufactured Vehicles: The support authority has recently granted approval for the shipment of foreign-manufactured vehicles at government expense for Staff employees transferring from the United States to overseas posts, provided such vehicles have been owned for six months prior to the PCS departure date from the States. (ADMIN-INTERNAL USE ONLY)

25.

... (CONFIDENTIAL)

- 6 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1

50X1

50X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 29 July 1966

26. Regulatory Issuances: The following regulatory issuances were disseminated: (CONFIDENTIAL)

50X1

- 7 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 29 July 1966

EDITORIAL

1. Field Support of Wire: Field editors, drawing on their relationships with monitors and their familiarity with events occurring in their coverage areas, are in a unique position to support hard-pressed Wire Service editors by singling out important facts that might go unnoticed upon receipt in Headquarters. This can best be done through separate FYI's, or editor's notes in the copy, pointing up significant comment or details buried in lengthy or apparently innocuous items. A case in point is the mass of incoming material on the current "cultural revolution" in Communist China: A seemingly routine list of Chinese leaders attending a writers reception identified Vice Premier Tao Chu as the new head of the CCP Central Committee's propaganda department, thereby confirming speculation that politburo member Lu Ting-i had been dismissed from this position. In this case the item was selected for the Wire, but for other reasons. An FYI or editor's note from the field would have enabled the Wire to place the new appointment in proper perspective for consumers.

2. Corrections: Insufficiently identified corrections continue to pose problems for Daily Report and Wire editors. Corrections to items filed from such press sources as Lima AFP and Havana PRENSA LATINA, in particular, should identify the country to which the original item referred.

ADMINISTRATION

3. Bonds: Form 2254--U.S. Savings Bond Authorization for Purchase and Request for Change--must be submitted to Payroll Branch, canceling a bond deduction whenever an employee transfers from an overseas bureau to Headquarters or to a domestic bureau. Personnel transferring between overseas bureaus do not need to cancel bond deductions. All requests for changes or new bond allotments must be completed in full; otherwise, bonds will not be issued. In applying for bonds a United States address, including zip code, must be used. APO or FPO addresses may not be used.

4. Dates of Arrival: Bureaus should report an employee's actual date of arrival in the "Remarks" column of the Time and Attendance Report.

5. Tax Codes: When preparing Form 1027, T&A Report and Payroll Change Slip, and in the payroll memorandum containing leave and payroll information for transferring employees, the tax code should be prefaced by the symbol M (for married) or S (for single) followed by the number of exemptions claimed. For example, the tax code of a married man claiming five exemptions would be M-5.

PERSONNEL

6. New Employees

--

Assignment

Teletypist, Editorial Division

Cruising Monitor, MOS, Field Operations Staff

50X1

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 29 July 1966

7. Reassignments



From

To

Branch Chief
Editorial Division

Bureau Chief
Key West Bureau

50X1

Editor
Editorial Division

Editor
Saigon Bureau

Senior Editor
Austrian Bureau

Chief Editor
Mediterranean Bureau

Branch Chief
Editorial Division

Chief Editor
Okinawa Bureau

Section Chief
Editorial Division

Senior Editor
German Bureau

Editor
East Coast Bureau

Editor
London Bureau

Editor
Editorial Division

Senior Editor
Austrian Bureau

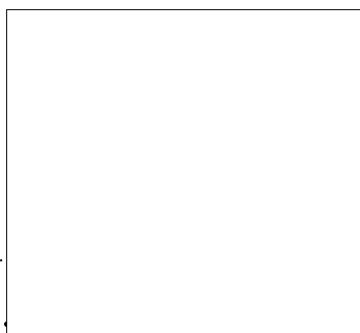
Senior Editor
German Bureau

Acting Chief, USSR &
EE Br., Editorial Div.

Editor
Editorial Division

Editor
West Coast Bureau

8. Separations



From

Typist, Radio Propaganda Division

50X1

Editor, Saigon Bureau

Chauffeur, West Coast Bureau

Analyst, Radio Propaganda Division (Retired)

Radio Operator, West Coast Bureau (Deceased)

9. Temporary Duty in Headquarters



- en route from Okinawa Bureau to Mediterranean
Bureau

50X1

50X1

ROGER G. SEELY
Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service